

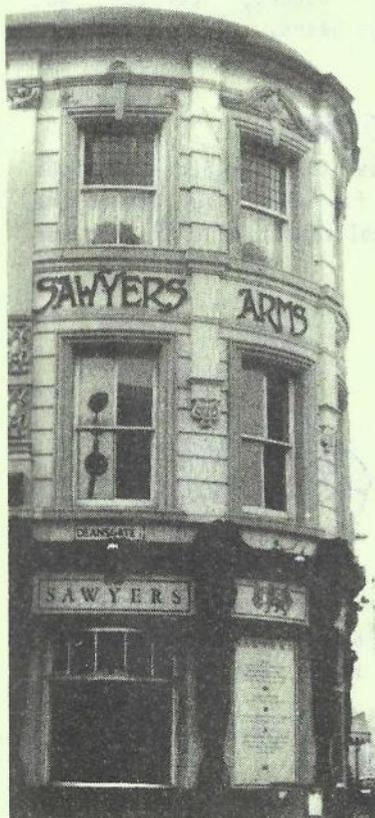
# WHAT'S DOING



FEB  
1992

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## MORE CITY ALE



The Sawyer's Arms at the corner of Bridge Street and Deansgate in Manchester city centre is now a real ale pub. Just when we were beginning to think it would never happen!

It must have been about thirty years ago when I saw workmen gutting the pub's interior and transforming the cellar of the then Wilsons house to accommodate Watneys Red Barrel and other rubbish. Until that time it was a beautiful pub, with plenty of etched glass and fine woodwork akin to many of the old Holts pubs of today. However, Watneys changed all that.

Since that transformation, the Sawyer's has gone through a lot of senseless and hideous alterations. Luckily, the fine exterior remained, although it was sometimes painted in silly colours, especially in the Red Revolution days.

The recent conversion is excellent and the pub actually has an interior similar to the pre-1960s design. There are no daft gimmicks, it is comfortable and the lighting and furnishings are sensible.

The beer is Ruddles County, Ruddles best bitter and Websters bitter.

Leo King

## GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

This year's GBBF will take place in the Grand Hall at Olympia between 4th and 8th August. The hall is the biggest venue since Alexandra

Palace burned down and it has a vast arched glass roof which can be parted in the centre. Weather permitting, the skies will be parting once or twice during the festival.

## GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL



4th-8th August 1992

There are four tube stations within 10-15 minutes' walk and plenty of buses running along the road outside, so travelling to the venue from other parts of London should be easy.

There will be 300 different beers, ciders, perries and foreign beers.

## IT WON'T BE LONG NOW

The Hyde Park Corner, the new Holts pub near the Silk Street/Adelphi Street bend in Salford, will be open in a few weeks, but not to the public. For the first three weeks the establishment will be used for training managers.

## BOLTON BEER FESTIVAL

This year's Great North Western Beer Festival takes place on Thursday 22nd - Saturday 25th April. The venue is the same - the Sports Centre in Silverwell Street.

Full details nearer the time.



\*\*\*\*\*  
Contributors to this issue: Stewart Revell, Roger Wood, Andrew Burrell, Glenn Worth, Leo King, Paul Roberts, Dave White, Rob Magee, Duncan Roberts, Roger Hall  
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## JERICO FREE HOUSE

The Gamecock on Rochdale Old Road, Jericho, Bury, is now a free house. Andrew and Sue Burrell bought the pub from Whitbread last June and



sell real ale in the form of Moorhouses bitter (99p), Boddies bitter and a guest cask beer. Meals are available, with Asian food a speciality. The Burrells have opened up the old fireplace (bricked up thirty years ago), installed a piano (singalong on Wednesdays) and there is a popular quiz night on Tuesdays. Plans for 1992 include a beer garden and a dining room.

## ROEBUCK

The refurbishment at Holts' Roebuck, Flixton, was completed just before Christmas. The electric pumps have been replaced by handpumps and lunchtime meals are served. Unfortunately the beer and its dispense are now virtually the only things traditional about the Roebuck. The 1930s multi-room pub, which incorporated some interesting features, has been gutted. There is a new bar, with a vault at the rear, and a large lounge, partially divided into three drinking areas. The revolving doors have gone. With a tarmac carpark, sandblasted front and bright outdoor lighting, the Roebuck appears to be set for the "more sophisticated market".

Roger Wood

*WHAT'S DOING* contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

*SUBSCRIPTIONS:* Send cheque/PO for £2.40, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, for 6 issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".

*BACK NUMBERS:* 15p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To join CAMRA send £10 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

*WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING:* Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £25,  $\frac{2}{3}$  page £20,  $\frac{1}{2}$  page £15,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.

## HOLTS CORNER

Holts have acquired the Pullet Inn on the Sholver Estate, Oldham. This is an ex-Oldham Brewery pub, late Boddingtons. It may be a week or two before Holts ales appear as the brewery will be fitting the pub out in their own style first.

Another pub taking Holts bitter as a guest ale is the Woodman, Oldham Road, Ashton-u-Lyne. This is believed to be the first John Smiths outlet to take the amber nectar in the area.

Many months ago we heard that the Gardeners Arms, Middleton, was to become a Holts pub. Since that time a sizeable queue has gathered outside, awaiting delivery of the essential supplies. The wait has not been in vain, and after a re-fit any time now, Holts beers will come on stream. Well worth waiting for.

With the continuing expansion of the tied estate and an ever increasing number of pubs taking Holts as a guest beer, brewing capacity is being increased at the brewery. Phase 1 of the work is already in progress, phases 2 and 3 will be under way later in the year.

Stewart Revell

## STRANGWAYS

The Berwick Arms on Carnarvon Street, which has been a keg Bass pub since God was a lad, has been spotted with a Lees handpump. Just in time for when the visitors return to the nick.

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# WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

About eighteen months ago I wrote that Bass looked set to buy pubs off Greenalls in the South East Lancs area. This hasn't happened yet - indeed, Bass have been shedding a few - but the brewing giant has bought a Greenalls pub in Ince-in-Makerfield. The BLACK DIAMOND, Warrington Road, Lower Ince, is the pub in question and unfortunately it no longer has traditional ale to compensate for the jukebox cacophony. And this part of town isn't a beer drinker's Mecca to begin with.

Bass lose yet more brownie points as the exquisitely-named STANDARD MOWER, Chapel Street, Leigh, has gone over to fizzy gunge. For years, the Mower was the only Bass house in the old South Lancs area to sell cask conditioned beer. A sad loss.

A Christmas visit to Billinge revealed little to cheer about, either. On Main Street, the STORK had a solitary handpump in the lounge serving Burtonwood bitter. Be sure to specify, as the bar staff instinctively make a beeline for the keg version. Across the road, the EAGLE & CHILD (Greenalls) remains keg. Traditional Greenalls mild has gone from the BROWN COW on Rainford Road, while at the BISPHAM LODGE, Tetley bitter is now the only real ale left. Another Upholland Road inn, the UNICORN, sells processed Greenalls beers, as it has done for years. Just out of town, the SANDBROOK HOTEL, Sandbrook Road, Tontine, has replaced Robinsons best bitter with Boddingtons bitter. An imaginative choice, indeed.

News in brief: Tetley dark mild has appeared at the CALEDONIAN, Bolton Road, Stubshaw Cross. However, the locals seem to prefer the keg variety and the dark tasted "on the turn" on a recent visit...cask mild has vanished altogether from the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Woodhouse Lane, Wigan, and even the appearance of handpumped Stones bitter won't do much for this Greenalls pub's chances of getting back in the Good Beer Guide...the CROWN HOTEL on Sefton Road, Goose Green, has changed ownership, but before you tear down the A49, let me tell you that the Crown now serves keg Burtonwood ales instead of keg Matthew Brown... the BEER ENGINE, Poolstock Lane, Poolstock, became a fully-fledged pub at the end of 1991. The beers in this free house are excellent and you can have fun trying to tear your laminated club membership cards up.

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## THE HOLLY BUSH STORY

The Holly Bush is a Grade 2 listed building on the A49 between Stretton and Acton Bridge. It has been a farmhouse pub since at least the seventeenth century and is probably the last remaining example of a farm and pub working together as a single business - a common feature of rural life for some hundreds of years.

The Holly Bush has been tenanted by members of the Cowap family since 1640, when licences were first introduced, and the land has also been farmed by the Cowaps throughout that time. The farm buildings were removed from the farm tenancy agreement some six years ago and added to the agreement covering the pub. Unfortunately, the pub and farm are owned by Greenalls Inns Ltd. Some eighteen months ago, Vale Royal District Council were approached by Greenalls for permission to close the pub with a view to it being converted to a private dwelling. After a hard-fought campaign, the planning authority rejected the application. Further, they added a rider to the effect that they would not look kindly on further applications for change of use at any time in the foreseeable future.

Greenalls eventually conceded that the pub should remain open and agreed with the Friends of the Holly Bush and the planners on some improvements to the essential amenities for both the public and the tenant; a tasteful modernisation. Since then, no action whatsoever has been taken to implement the improvements.

The tenant has, however, been presented with a new agreement and, after considering its terms, the Cowap family has concluded that it

would be impossible to continue in business at the Holly Bush. Many, if not most, of the other tenanted houses in the area - and indeed nationally - are finding themselves in a similar situation. Some tenants have already left and others plan to go. It is a time of change in which the commercial giants are trying to get their own way to the detriment of our traditional way of life.

For the Holly Bush, the options appear to be limited. It seems unlikely that a new tenant could make a living unless Greenalls considerably improve their offer. It is doubtful whether the company would appoint a manager in this type of pub. So perhaps the Holly Bush will be sold. If it forms part of a package sold as an investment project - and Greenalls have done this several times recently - its future would once more be in jeopardy. All too often such places are converted into some disgusting form of road house or theme pub. On the other hand, if the Holly Bush were sold to the free trade, it would be the only free house country pub within 35 miles.

The Friends of the Holly Bush are seeking to contact any individual or organisation interested in preserving the Holly Bush. So if you have got some serious money to spare, get in touch. The secretary of the Friends of the Holly Bush is Joe Lawless, 0606 891691.

## 5th WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL

12th-14th March 1992

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train and bus stations)*

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Fri 12-3.00pm & 5.30-11.30pm  
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# LETTERS



## MMC

Sir - OK, Magnus (letters, January WD), so CAMRA boobed, but only by believing that a Conservative Government would have the guts to tackle the monopolistic and self-seeking brewery lobby. The brewers nobbled the MMC and the OFT and succeeded in watering down their proposals. Now that an election is in sight, I see that moves are afoot to examine the unjustified price increases. Perhaps a Government of a different complexion would take on the big brewers, whose constituency consists solely of shareholders. Smaller brewers, ball bearing manufacturers and many foreign companies have a wider constituency of shareholders who might include suppliers, customers, employees and the general public, all of whom have some say in what the company does. Megatycoons wouldn't make some of the decisions they do if they had to meet the folk who were affected on the golf course, at the Rotary Club, in Tescos on a Saturday morning, or down at the Old Bull and Bush.

Roger Hall

## THE GREAT DEBATE

Sir - At the risk of boring your readers (though I imagine they're a pretty hardy lot by now), perhaps you would allow me to put to Roger Hall, through your columns, this question: If the Shakespeare in Beswick is such a dead loss as Roger has been led to believe, how come the licensee thought it worth spending £60,000 on (Roger's figure) just two years ago?

Roger asks what future I see for the Shakespeare. Well, it could hope to do half as well as the nearby (and more obscurely located) Britannia, now in its second year in the Good Beer Guide and with as thriving a local atmosphere as you'll find in the city. And less than a mile south, on Pottery Lane, the Railway rose from years of closure (Roger's "economic conditions", no doubt) to a glorious, if admittedly brief, flowering as the best pub for the beer drinker between the centre of town and Stalybridge Station.

Whether a preserved Shakespeare will achieve such favourable outcomes time will tell. What is certain is that a cleared site will not.

Rhys P Jones

### DIANA DOORS

Sir - My friend Diana would like to remind us that the last revolving doors in Prestwich - at the Welcome Inn (Holts) - were removed recently during the refurbishment. The revolving doors at the Beehive (Whitbread) were removed in 1986 because they were considered a fire hazard.

Glenn Worth

### MORE DOORS

Sir - The Old Star, Cheadle, lost its revolving doors in a recent refurbishment. Two years ago there were revolving doors at Bolton's Crofters Arms (Greenalls). Are they still there?

Roger Wood

### SNOOKER TABLE

Sir - We too thought that the Lamb in Eccles was the only pub in Greater Manchester with a 12ft snooker table. (Peter Barnes's article, last month.) That was until we visited the Junction at Middleton Junction, just a few yards from the Lees Brewery.

Steve & Anne

### FORT & BUDGIE

Sir - Further to Peter Wadsworth's article in last month's WD. The Castle & Falcon is alive and kicking a few yards away from its former location. The Castle & Falcon II is sited in the former Dolly May's Club on Dantzic Street. The Castle & Falcon has a club licence and is open Monday-Wednesday 11am - midnight, Thursday - Saturday 11am - 2am and Sunday 12 noon - 3pm. Burtonwood mild (£1.06), bitter (£1.10) and Forshaws bitter (£1.15) are served through handpumps. Hot and cold meals and snacks are available at any time. The new Castle & Falcon is run by Sam and Norma from the old pub and all the former regulars are now in situ.

Across the road, the J W Lees on Withy Grove has obtained a late licence for the upstairs bar, which after 10.30pm becomes the JWL Over 30s Club, licensed until 1.00am Tuesday and Wednesday, 2.00am Thursday to Saturday.

Paul Roberts

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## SALFORD PUBS

The number of pubs in Salford continues to decline. Official statistics of fully on-licensed premises (which includes things like licensed church halls as well as pubs) show a drop from 163 to 154 in 1991. The number of transfers was up from 126 to 135, showing a disturbing increase in turnover of licensees. At the end of the year 19 pubs in the city were closed.

# THE STATION

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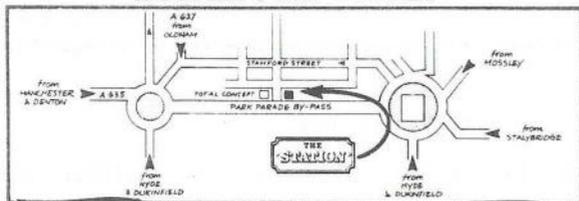
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Coachhouse  
Blunderbus

•  
Titanic Wreckage

•  
Exmoor Gold

•  
Bunces Best Bitter

•  
Wobbly Bob

•  
Tyke

•  
Pendle Witch

•  
Hilden Ale

•  
Crouch Vale Bitter

•  
Shepherd Neame  
Spitfire

•  
Felinfoel  
Double Dragon

•  
Double Dagger

•  
Batemans  
Victory Ale

# NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No. 62

## CARRIERS ARMS

30 Market Street, Stalybridge

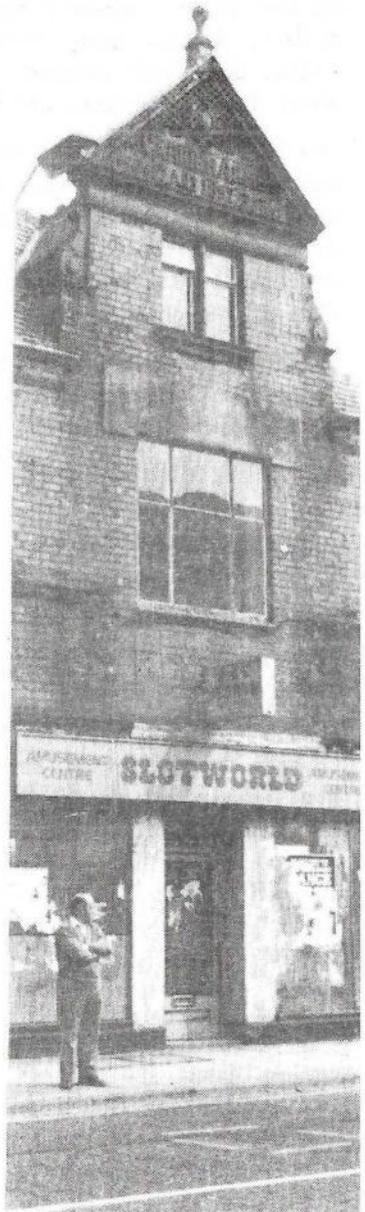
At one time there were 14 pubs on Market Street between the station and the old Market Place at the top of Trinity Street. Some, like the Angel, once the town's principal inn and coaching house, are long gone. Several closed during the last fifty years and a few remain open.

Some old pub buildings are still standing, like the Steam Engine, now an Indian restaurant, and the Carriers Arms, which today houses an amusement arcade.

Although this pub closed in 1942, until a few years ago the building on the corner of Queen Street had a decorative brick pediment displaying the legend, "Carrier Arms AD 1897".

Samuel Alcock opened a beerhouse on this site in 1850. At that time it was known as the Queens Arms. In November 1855 Samuel was described as a beerseller and shopkeeper when he was fined for refusing to let the police into the house on a Sunday. (Being summonsed for illegal Sunday drinking was something of an occupational hazard in Stalybridge.)

The beerhouse was probably rebuilt by Shaw's Bardsley Brewery, who bought the Carriers in the 1890s. In 1902 Rothwell's Newton Heath Brewery took over Shaw's and so acquired the Carriers Arms. In 1942 Rothwell's sold the building to Stalybridge Corporation, probably for a road widening which, fifty years on, has yet to happen!



## REAL ALE IN EIRE

Robin Pendragon

Surprisingly, perhaps, there isn't any. Given that Southern Ireland's residents are internationally notorious for their thirsts, the crap they drink there is amazing. There was a microbrewery in Dublin making the real thing in the early 1980s, but it only lasted about eighteen months before running into financial difficulties. And there is a brewery in Northern Ireland called Down Royal producing the real thing, but their products have yet to percolate south of the border. Which leaves Guinness and Smithwick's.

The former is sold only as keg these days and I have it on indifferent authority that the propellant is a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen. (So as well as flatulence, you get the bends?) But my problem with Guinness is its unsightly bitter onslaught on my palate and uniquely foul sour aftertaste. Bottled Guinness tastes just as bad to me, though demented fans of the drink insist that the bottled form is "real".

Guinness apart, Eire residents now live in a One Drink State. It's called Smithwick's and is a sort of keg mixed with lots and lots of CO<sub>2</sub>; a bit like drinking barbed wire, I found. And believe me, it's all there is. There used to be a competing keg-only brewer trading as Phoenix Ales but Eire residents tell me that it was bought out by Smithwick's some years ago. Real ale died out during the 1950s due to takeovers, mergers and the executive decision to kill off the taken-over beers until now, there is only Smithwick's left.

Perhaps this is why there are no pubs per se in Eire. Instead, they have "bars", "lounges" and "hotels". Bars are grim, dark alcohol dispensaries to which addicts resort for low-cost ethanol fixes. In Eire, "low-cost" means £1.60 per pint or less. For Smithwick's! Lounges have lights, seats, indoor toilets, muzak and (often very good) meals and snacks - but the Smithwick's and Guinness can cost up to £1.85 a pint. Or more! Hotels are often ridiculously luxurious with marble entrances, ankle-deep carpets, flowers on the tables and scented toilets. Understandable in Dublin or Cork, but unexpected in rural areas where the regulars have probably spent all day up to their wellies in agricultural matter. And the cost of a pint in some smart hotels can go over £2.

For the man who can buy a bar and upgrade it to a lounge, or buy a lounge and upgrade it to a hotel, the potential profitability is frightening. Since the monopoly brew is all that's on offer everywhere, competition is by way of standards of luxury - and the Southern Irish seem to be suckers for a thicker carpet or a softer bar stool.

The problem is that even a manky bar is so profitable that buying the licence can cost the entrepreneur £250,000 in a rural area and £700,000 in Outer Dublin!

Things were just starting to change in late 1991. The high cost of the monopoly drinks has caused a change in drinking patterns. Whereas many men stopped off for a few pints on the way home, now they do no such thing. Whereas Eire bars once dealt only in fluids containing ethanol, now they nearly all offer tea and coffee services. Whereas the evening used to start in most places at about 7.00pm, now it is more like 9.00pm and in rural areas it can be as late as 10.15pm. And whereas total abstinence was once the preserve of the ultra-religious "Pioneers" society, many Eire people have simply given up and have become IT by default.

All this has been noted by the gits in suits who masterminded all the takeovers, closures and mergers and made the Eire licensed trade the stagnant joke it now is. I failed to find either, but I am told that two Dublin bars have started importing real ale - just in bottles, in one example - from the UK. Guinness have brought out ersatz "draught" beer in tins and are supposed to have been shocked by the demand. And in Dublin and Limerick at least the locals have started visiting continental-style bistros catering for disaffected Smithwick's drinkers.

The knee-jerk reaction by the Big Boys was to install biere a la pression dispensers in some hotels and to add a wine list to the shrunken drinks tariff. So far, it has not worked. They could have tried putting something more imaginative than Harp in the dispensers, I suppose. And Irish wine drinkers, it turns out, were sophisticated enough to sneer at Mateus Rose, Blue Nun, Piat d'Or and Black Tower. The whisper was that Guinness are thinking of bringing out their canned bitter in a not-quite-keg form next summer. You heard about it first in What's Doing!

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### OAK IN WHITEFIELD

Handpumped Oak bitter from the Phoenix Brewery in Heywood is on sale at the Beehive, Besses, Whitefield. The arrival of Oak is another "first" for the area. Landlord John Hannan intends to offer a range of real ales from our local independent breweries at reasonable prices and Oak is the first guest beer to start the ball rolling. Moorhouses Premier bitter or something from Dobbin's Brewery could be next - yet another first for the Whitefield area.

## BOOK REVIEW

Duncan Roberts

Committees are notoriously slow at making decisions, or for that matter, writing books and guides. Furthermore they tend to attract the sort of idiot who makes a hobby of sitting on committees. (The objective of the group is monumentally irrelevant, he has an opinion on anything and everything and he is at odds with most other people, as the unfortunate chairman will find out to his cost.) Such an individual can happily delay a beer guide for months.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that some of the better local beer guides have been the products of two or three dedicated individuals who went out and got on with it.

One such recent publication is the "Hereford Pub Guide", jointly produced by former North Manchester CAMRA member Jim Davies and Paul Izod. It is an excellent example of what can be done with a home computer and, I suspect, a laser printer.

Every pub in the city of Hereford is listed, whether it sells real ale or not. Each house is described in a few sentences with little intrusive CAMRA jargon. The authors make useful comments on prices (above or below the city's average) and if vegetarian food is available. Generous information is provided on public transport - most useful to a stranger. Bus routes are given, and alighting points noted when the bus does not actually pass the pub. Potential producers of guides should note this well.

The publication is refreshingly free from symbols that send the reader scurrying back to the front cover for a not-so-simultaneous translation. The introduction comments on the MMC Report and gives a short history of brewing in the city. A few paragraphs on cider will be useful to traditionally non-cider drinkers such as Mancunians. The guide is good value for money and will help the exploring drinker and passing tourist alike.

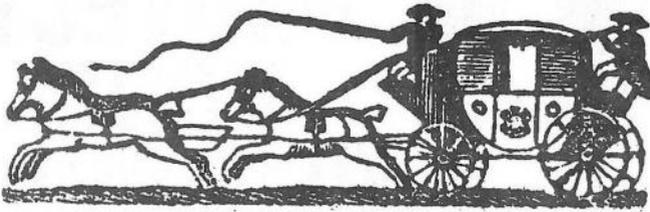
The Hereford Pub Guide is available for £1.75 post paid from Jim Davies, 81 Cotterell Street, Hereford HR4 0HJ

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## STONES

Stones bitter (£1.19) has replaced draught Bass at the Victoria in Altrincham. However, it is competing with the established keg version and one wonders how long the real ale will last at the pub now that the attraction of a separate brand has gone.

## UNPARALLELED TRAVELLING



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This 1823 advertisement for the first runs of the "Peveril of the Peak" coach has recently turned up. The Peveril pub on Great Bridge-water Street was built by a former stage coach driver and when it opened (about 1830) a painting celebrating the first journey was fixed over the door. In its day, the "Peveril" was the fastest coach on the road - the 23-hour journey to London must have been one hell of a ride!

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## WHAT'S DOING OUTLETS

What's Doing is on sale in the following pubs in North Manchester:

### Manchester

Hare & Hounds, Shudehill  
Sportsman, Market Street  
Castle, Oldham Street  
Wheatsheaf, Oak Street  
Crown & Anchor, Port Street  
Grey Horse, Portland Street  
Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street  
White House, Gt Ancoats Street  
Bulls Head, London Road  
Jolly Angler, Ducie Street  
Kings Arms, C-on-M  
Beer House, Angel Street  
Marble Arch, Rochdale Road  
Queens Arms, Honey Street  
Abercrombie, Bootle Street  
Britons Protection, Gt B'water St  
Crown & Anchor, Cateaton St  
Crown & Cushion, Corporation St  
Dutton, Park Street  
Millstone, Thomas Street  
Derby Brewery Arms, Cheetham  
Grafton, Grafton St, C-on-M

### Salford

Crescent, Crescent  
Peel Park, Chapel Street  
Red Lion, IOH  
Waggon & Horses, IOH  
Old House at Home, Whit Lane  
Kings Arms, Bloom Street  
Ashley Brook, Seedley  
Eagle, Collier Street

### Swinton

Cricketers, Manchester Road  
Moorside Farm, Moorside Road  
Newmarket, Bolton Road  
Park Inn, Worsley Road  
White Horse, Worsley Road  
Morning Star, Wardley

### Eccles, Monton

Bargee, Monton  
Drop Inn, Monton Road  
Park, Monton Road  
Egerton Arms, Worsley Road  
Ellesmere, King William St  
Bridgewater, Liverpool Road  
Chestnut Lodge, Trafford Road  
Crown & Volunteer, Liverpool Rd  
Duke of York, Church Street  
Stanley Arms, Liverpool Road  
Wellington, Church Street  
White Lion, Liverpool Road

### Irlam

Boathouse, Boat Lane

### Farnworth/Ringley

Albert, Albert Road  
Blades Home Brew, Market Street  
Victoria, Market Street  
Horse Shoe, Ringley

### Hollinwood

Bridgewater, Manchester Road

## TEDIOUS TRAFFORD

With the exception of numerous outlets selling Boddingtons bitter, only one pub in the Trafford licensing district - Grand Met's Orange Tree in Altrincham - sells a guest beer, and that sometimes isn't available. With just two free houses, both loan-tied to S&N, Trafford must be the most boring licensing district for guest beers in Britain!

# rupert

I was delighted to see former Campaign dogsbody, the roly-poly Andy Bilge, up in Grotley with his pals for a football match. Having made way for chuckle-a-second Derek Dicks he's now making his way in the field of Public Relations. As I escorted them around some of Slumley's less salubrious hostelries, I was disturbed to hear them using a strange and unintelligible argot. Rhyming slang does not trip mellifluously off the tongue of an expatriate Jock and quite frankly I didn't know what the Donald the smart Whitehalls were going on about. Nevertheless we quaffed a few acceptable amber nectars from the wickets and bumped into a few old buddies.

Strangely, Beinlos was not among our encounters. It seems that he's now been thrown out of his last pub, and having written vitriol about their prices won't easily get back in. Charlie Bass hasn't managed to open his place in the sticks so our intrepid hero has thrown in his sinecure counting drachma and emigrated to the Fatherland, where he will henceforth be employed holding table tennis bats at Munich airport.

He will be missed, particularly at the toppers' vademecum selection meetings, where his fresh and novel approach brought an exhilaration to an

otherwise mundane and tedious process. Never mind. The stupid procedure whereby over careful consideration is given to geographical spread and brewery representation looks like being thrown out by replacement iconoclasts. For the first time we may be able to vote for the pubs selling the best beer, irrespective of where they are or which brewery they belong to. I look forward to a vademecum where all the Grotley entries are concentrated in Slumley Parva, thereby demonstrating to all and Southern Jessies in particular that this truly is the nirvana, the mecca of aficionados of the hop. Poor sods who find themselves in Vile Splatting or Cabbagebed without a watering hole to be recommended have only themselves to blame. Catch the bus to Slumley Parva!

I would like to express my sincere apologies to Charlie Super, whose Germanification came out as Oberst Wilhelm. This, of course, is most insulting. There are, of course, too many Billys getting their oar in and this had evidently confused me. It should, of course, have read Oberst Friedrich Super. I really hope the course in speed chairmanship goes well. Good luck, Charlie.



# Branch Diary

## WIGAN

Wed 19 Feb 8.30, Branch Meeting, Gem's Free House, Upper Dicconson Street, Wigan

Sun 1st March 12 noon. <sup>GNWBF</sup> GBBF Meeting, Seven Stars, Wallgate, Wigan  
Contact: Brian Gleave, Atherton 876200 (w), 840658 (h)

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 4 Feb 8pm, Branch Meeting, Napier, Bolton Street, Bury  
Tues 18 Feb 8pm, Good Beer Guide final selection meeting. Tap & Spile, Hope Street, Rochdale. All members welcome  
Tues 3 March 8pm, Branch Meeting, Moulders Arms, Milnrow Road, Shaw  
3/4/5 April, Oldham Beer Festival, Werneth Park Music Rooms, Frederick Street, Werneth, Oldham. More details in next issue.  
Contact: B Lee 061 766 6601 (w), 0706 824401 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 5 Feb, Clifton Crawl: Robin Hood 7pm, Oddfellows 8pm, Nelson 9pm.  
Wed 12 Feb, GBG '93 shortlisting. Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street. Assemble 7.30, meeting starts 8pm  
Wed 19 Feb 8pm, Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Salford  
Wed 26 Feb 8pm, Committee/Social, Queens Arms, Honey Street, Cheetham  
Wed 4 March, Irlams o'th'Height: Dog & Partridge 7pm, Waggon & Horses 7.30.  
Contact: Roger Hall, 740 7937

## BEINLOS'S BYE-BYE BLIGHTY BOOZING BINGE

This month Paul Roberts departs these shores to take up residence in the Fatherland as WD's resident correspondent. The following farewell crawl of Manchester has been arranged for Thursday February 13th:  
5.50pm Castle & Falcon, Dantzic St; 6.45 J W Lees (upstairs); 7.15 Crown & Anchor, Cateaton St; 7.40 Sinclairs; 8.18 Town Hall, Tib Lane; 8.43 Vine, Kennedy St; 9.06 City Arms; 9.43 Grey Horse, Portland St; 10.22 Castle, Oldham St; 11.30 Castle & Falcon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LATE REVOLVING DOORS AND SNOOKER TABLE NEWS

Roger Wood tells us that the Melville in Stretford had its revolving doors removed some time ago, but there is still a distinctive circular entrance. Stewart Revell says that the Albert, the new free house in Farnworth, has a snooker table of the correct dimensions in the back room.

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Sat: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

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